

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD  
JANUARY 4, 2022  
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 4, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Courthouse, City of St. James. The following Board members were present: Jim Branstad, Dillon Melheim, Bill Miller, Jim Pettersen, and Bob Rinne. The meeting was called to order by County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Kelly Pauling and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Branstad moved and Pettersen seconded to nominate Commissioner Bob Rinne as Chairman for 2022.

Pettersen moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Bob Rinne as Chairman for 2022.

Melheim moved and Branstad seconded to nominate Commissioner Jim Pettersen as Vice-Chairman for 2022.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Jim Pettersen as Vice-Chairman for 2022.

Pettersen moved, Branstad seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of the December 21 regular meeting.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve payment of bills as audited and filed in the County Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows by fund: General Fund—\$87,537.53; Solid Waste Fund—\$200.00; Road and Bridge Fund—\$3,305.67; Soil & Water Conservation—\$1,152.00; and the Road and Bridge Fund—\$45,126.84.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to ratify payment of year-end bills as audited and filed in the County Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows by fund: General Fund—\$21,080.29; Solid Waste Fund—\$7,772.83; and the Building/Equipment Fund—\$1,405.00.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Bob Rinne and Jim Pettersen to the South Minnesota Multi-County HRA Board.

County A/T/Coordinator Kelly Pauling reviewed the draft Vaccination, Testing and Face Coverings Policy, which was prepared in anticipation of the OSHA mandate for weekly testing and masking of unvaccinated employees.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed 4 to 1 with Melheim opposed, to approve the draft Vaccination, Testing and Face Coverings Policy, with dates yet to be determined.

In response to the request for replacement of the floats on the aerator at Kansas Lake, the Mountain Lake/Odin/Ormsby Area Sportsman's Club was willing to accept the payment of \$3,700.00.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve payment of \$3,700.00 for replacement of the floats at Kansas Lake.

Miller moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the Avenu maintenance contracts withdrawal for CAMA and Tax effective 12/31/2022.

The Board reviewed the draft listing of 2022 committee appointments and discussed adjustments.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to set the Commissioner Department and Committee appointments for 2022 as revised.

Public Works Director Teal Spellman was present and reviewed a resolution to sponsor a grant application by the City of St. James for Safe Routes to School in the amount of \$250,000 to put a sidewalk under the viaduct. The County would handle the funding due to State Aid requirements.

Miller moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF WATONWAN COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
IN SUPPORT OF THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT

BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of Commissioners of Watonwan County, Minnesota, as follows:

RESOLVED: The County of Watonwan, by and through its Board of Commissioners, does hereby support the Safe Routes to School Grant and project related thereto.

Spellman requested approval of the County application for TAP funding of Stage II of the Watline Trail. DNR funding can act as the required match.

Branstad moved, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adopt the following:

WATONWAN COUNTY RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT  
FROM PARTICIPATING LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT  
WATLINE TRAIL STAGE II

BE IT RESOLVED, that Watonwan County is a party to a "Transportation Alternatives" project identified as the Watline Trail Stage II and has reviewed and approved the project as proposed. As a participating member the LUG understands their role in the project, which includes a willingness to secure and guarantee the local share of costs associated with this

project as appropriate as well as the responsibility for seeing this project through to its completion, with compliance of all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Sponsorship includes a willingness to secure and guarantee the local share of costs associated with this project and responsibility for seeing this project through to its completion, with compliance of all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Teal Spellman is hereby authorized to act as agent on behalf of this Local Unit of Government.

Miller moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adopt the following:

WATONWAN COUNTY  
SPONSORING AGENCY RESOLUTION  
WATLINE TRAIL STAGE II

BE IT RESOLVED, that Watonwan County agrees to act as sponsoring agency for a transportation alternatives project identified as the Watline Trail Stage II and has reviewed and approved the project as proposed. Sponsorship includes a willingness to secure and guarantee the local share of costs associated with this project and responsibility for seeing this project through to its completion, with compliance of all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Teal Spellman is hereby authorized to act as agent on behalf of this sponsoring agency.

Branstad moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Glenda Arndt to the Traverse des Sioux Library System Board for 2022-2024, with Kathy Guyer as alternate.

Naomi Ochsendorf was present to request authorization to post positions for Public Health Infectious Disease Coordinator and Family Planning for internal transfer opportunities.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the postings of the positions as requested.

Branstad moved, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve setting the minimum bi-weekly salaries for elected officials as follows: County Recorder—\$2,188.80; County Attorney—\$2,707.20; County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator—\$2,707.20; and County Sheriff—\$2,855.20.

Melheim moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve the appointment of Jacob VanRyswyk to the position of County Feedlot/District Technician for Land Management/SWCD.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve annual pay step increases for Neil Wiederhoeft, Dean Swenstad, Taylor Rueckert, and Deb Grote.

Human Resources Director Lisa Schumann reviewed a proposal from the committee reviewing the Personnel Policies to allow jeans every Friday, rather than just the Friday after payday.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve amending the Personnel Policies to allow jeans every Friday.

Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 10:15.

Bob Rinne, Chairman  
Watowan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk  
Watowan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling  
Watowan County  
Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator